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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10, 12, 17, 18, 19, and 34-41 have been canceled.

Claim 11 is amended as follows:

11. (amended) A composition comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase [reaction component essential] for an *ex-vivo* [enzymatic] polymerase reaction in which a nucleic acid polymer product complementary to a nucleic acid polymer template is prepared [a substrate is catalyzed by an enzyme in a reaction mixture to form a product], and [a] an anionic tracer dye compatible with the thermostable DNA polymerase [enzyme], the composition being substantially free of the nucleic acid polymer template [substrate] and having an optical density greater than about 5 at a visible wavelength of maximal tracer absorbance.

Claim 13 is amended as follows:

13. The composition of claim [12 wherein the] 11 having a density of [the composition is] at least about 1.01 g/cm³.

Claim 14 is amended as follows:

14. The composition of claim [12 wherein the] 11 having a density of [the composition is] at least about 1.1 g/cm³.

Claim 15 is amended as follows:

15. The composition of claim [12] 11 wherein the optical density of the composition is at least about 15 at a visible wavelength of maximal tracer absorbance.

Claim 16 is amended as follows:

16. The composition of claim [12] 11 wherein the optical density of the composition is about 200 - 400 at a visible wavelength of maximal tracer absorbance.

Claim 20 is amended as follows:

20. The composition of claim [19] 11 wherein the polymerase is Taq polymerase.

Claim 21 is amended as follows:

21. (amended) The composition of claim [12] 11 wherein the tracer dye is comprised of acid violet 5 and acid red 1.

Claim 22 is amended as follows:

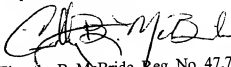
22. (amended) The composition of claim 14 wherein the optical density of the composition is about 200 - 400 at a visible wavelength of maximal tracer absorbance, the **[reaction component essential for a]** polymerase **[reaction]** is a Taq polymerase, and the tracer dye consists of 20% acid violet 5 and 80% acid red 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, and allowance of the claims of the present application, as amended, is requested.

The Notice of Appeal was filed in this case on March 1, 2002. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee necessary to ensure pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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